

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Lithuania  
SUBJECT Inland Waterway Data

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The principal commodities which are moved on the waterways are grain, timber and timber rafts, and miscellaneous cargo.

2. There are two main canals in the country:

(a) From Rusne on the Neman River (10 km from the estuary) to Kalipeda (Memel). Numerous steel bridges span this canal.

(b) From Sovetsk (Memel) to the Pregel River. This canal contains the largest navigation locks in Lithuania. note: Detailed information is on file for these locks in the Water and Pipeline Unit, AFOIN-3A31.

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3. Hydrographic data on the Neman River:

(a) From Kaunas to Vilkija, jetties have been built on a stagger system extending from the banks into the river for the purpose of assisting to maintain a 2m depth of water.

(b) Between Vilkija and Smalininkai the water, many times in the summer, reaches a low of 50cm. This forces barges to accumulate in numbers and wait for adequate water. Four dredges are normally employed in this section.

(c) There are six dredges normally operating between Smalininkai (port) and the three branches of the estuary. Again, this is a necessity if a depth of 2m is to be maintained.

4. Flood stage, however, attains a depth of 10m and all rivers in Lithuania are subject to floods due to the spring thaws.

5. Barges - Barges which ply these rivers are, for the most part, of the 200 GRT size. They will vary up to and including 600 GRT. They are constructed for an average draft of 3m.

6. Neris River - This river is used mainly by timber rafts.

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